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Strike action closes county's schools

JENN WATT

Editor

Rotating one-day strikes are set to involve teachers at the county's high school, alternate education centre, and elementary schools on Tuesday, as the unions intensify job action over stalled negotiations with the province.

"We are asking parents to stand with us to protect the future of public education," said Karen Bratina, president of the Trillium Lakelands teacher local of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, in a media release. "The programs we are fighting for today will have an impact on the education of students now and in the future."

ETFO had previously announced its members would not be supervising field trips or extra-curricular activities to demonstrate their dissatisfaction at how negotiations were going. Late last week, the union gave the mandatory five days' notice of this week's strike.

Issues important to ETFO include protecting the kindergarten program, teacher compensation, smaller class sizes, and resources for students with special needs.

"Since late December, Education Minister [Stephen] Lecce's team has shown no interest in returning to contract talks to discuss key issues affecting students, student learning and educators," Bratina said. "A strike is the only means for educators to force the government to get serious about negotiations and the future of public education."

see COMPENSATION page 5



Spotlight on cult classic

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Codie Wilkinson, as Dr. Frank N' Furter, performs in the school's staging of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. About 500 people attended the four performances staged by the HHSS drama students from Jan. 12 to 14. The production was co-directed by Greg Sadlier and Ryan Merritt. See more photos on page 10. /DARREN LUM Staff

Prudent planning helps merchants make it through winter

JENN WATT

Editor

For many of Haliburton's downtown retailers, the winter season is a slower, at times stressful time of year, but one that can be weathered with careful planning and a dash of tenacity. The money earned in the summer needs to be managed to

make it through the rest of the year, and inventory must be carefully curated to suit the much smaller pool of potential customers coming in from January to May.

But despite the challenges, retailers say they make it through the lean season thanks to loyal shoppers, a bit of belt tightening, and a love of what they do.

"Winter is something you get through ... it's not going to change," says Laurie Bonfield, owner of Country Pickin's women's

clothing store. "You have to accept the season, work with the season. You can't fight winter, it's going to come in all shapes and forms. You deal with what's happening in the season."

Over her 37 years in business, Bonfield has fine-tuned her merchandise to suit the clientele in Haliburton. She stocks the boots with built-in ice grippers to cater to

see HEALTHY page 12

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Winter sidewalk clearance causes concern

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Joe Carriere said trying to find parking in downtown Haliburton that would allow for his wife to safely exit the car and not have to then climb over a snowbank gave him such grief that he reached out with his concerns.

Carriere said he and wife Connie Reevley, who live on Loon Lake Road, are both seniors frustrated with the buildup of snow on the sidewalks. Carriere wrote to Mayor Andrea Roberts and the editor of this paper prior to the holidays.

"The fact that as seniors, both my wife and I are well over 70, and when you go into town to try to do the shopping, as they were requesting just before Christmas, the BIA had an ad on one of the local radio stations to shop locally," he said. "Well, you try to shop locally and you'll break your neck trying to climb over the snowbanks that the sidewalk plows push over to the curb."

Carriere said it's frustrating to see people struggling to get over the snowbanks, or to have to walk up the street with mobility equipment and oxygen tanks in order to find a clear entrance from the road onto the sidewalk. The problem is one that causes people to fill parking spaces at local businesses they aren't necessarily visiting, he said, or to avoid shopping downtown altogether.

"If you've got a passenger and you want them to be

able to get out so they can even get over the snowbank, you've got to park out into the driving lane, and the driving lane is getting narrower all the time," he said.

Carriere said the problem has been ongoing, and it's making him consider wanting to move out of the area, saying, "I've had enough winter up here."

Snow buildup on the sidewalks and its impact on people's mobility has been identified as a concern of the Aging Well Committee in the past.

"Some business owners try to keep a path open from the parking spots to the sidewalk and this is a great help, but in years where there is a large accumulation of snow, it becomes difficult to know where to move the snow to so it doesn't just relocate the problem from one location to another," said Doreen Boville of the AWC. "Also, because keeping a pathway open places an added responsibility on the business owners, not all of them are able to maintain this practice."

Boville said she was aware that some Aging Well members have personally had difficulties getting around downtown because of the snow accumulation.

"Ideally if the municipality could remove the snow accumulation more frequently, the less snow the business owners would have to deal with, and hopefully the more willing they would be to help keep the paths from the parking spots to the sidewalk open," she said.

In December, Carriere wrote to Mayor Andrea Roberts, and also a letter to the editor of this paper about his

concern.

"I'd like to see more response on the town's side to not leave it more than maybe a week at the most, goodness gracious. It doesn't take a heck of a lot. They could bring a crew in to clean that out before they send them anywhere else."

Roberts told the *Echo* she did contact the roads department in December after receiving Carriere's concern.

"As I recall they had intended to do snow removal the next day but snowy weather came and then plowing became the priority," she said, noting that snow removal had taken place as Carriere mentioned in anticipation of the weekend weather earlier this month.

"This is an issue every year but I have not personally had other complaints," said Roberts. "The sidewalks are cleared and sanded all the time but the removal only takes place every so often as it takes different equipment. I realize the concern is the cone of snow from the road to the curb, making it difficult for passengers to get out or someone who uses the right side of their vehicle for mobility access."

"I don't find it any worse this year than other years," said Roberts. "One thing I'm thinking the municipality could do is ensure the handicapped spaces are cleared as a priority."

Roberts said she would discuss with the roads department to see how that goal could be achieved.

Climate change co-ordinator plans to lead the way

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Korey McKay is in the unique position of working in a job that didn't exist two years ago when she enrolled in a master's program that would eventually enable her to work in the role.

McKay joined the county last fall as climate change co-ordinator after graduating from the Master of Climate Change program at the University of Waterloo. The position was developed last year to "support the County of Haliburton's initiative on Climate Change (mitigation and adaption)," with McKay's role to "direct, co-ordinate, plan, implement and monitor the County of Haliburton climate change plan," according to the job posting.

Originally from Bowmanville, McKay first enrolled at the University of Waterloo to study in the science and business degree program. She gained experience in governance working federally in environmental compliance, and provincially with the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund, as well as for the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough before starting grad school in 2018.

McKay wanted to work at the community level, which she said generally means working for a municipality or non-profit.

"Coming out of my master's, I wanted to work at the community level, because you see a lack of action at the global and national level and it can get kind of disheartening," she said, noting that many hopeful stories come out of community-level action. "We not only control a lot of the greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the impacts at a local level, but also what you do at a local level can almost be treated as a case study that can be replicated elsewhere, so it's sort of a more bottom-up approach to climate change."

The county's climate change plan has three main phases, corporate mitigation, corporate adaptation, and community mitigation and adaptation.

"Corporate refers to our municipal operations and services, and community refers to the county as a whole," she told the *Echo*. "Mitigation involves reducing greenhouse



Korey McKay, Haliburton County's first climate change co-ordinator, started at the county last fall. She comes to the position with an undergrad in science and business, and as a graduate of the Master of Climate Change program at the University of Waterloo. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

gas emissions – the causes of climate change – and adaptation involves reducing the negative impacts of climate change – the effects of climate change."

Following the Partners for Climate Protection program, in which municipalities become a member, McKay will work through a five milestone process.

"The first step was doing our greenhouse gas inventory for our corporate operations, the next phase is setting targets to reduce our emissions, and the next phase is to write the actual plan and implementing and monitoring it as time goes on," she said. McKay presented on a corporate climate change target last week to county council, and is writing a plan to adopt targets specific for each of the lower-tier municipalities, which she will present at council meetings as soon as February.

"It's a mix of being sort of an aspirational target, but also looking at our inventory and thinking, OK, what do we have the power to change, and especially within the next 10 years. So making some calculations on, if we change

this truck to a hybrid, where does that leave us, what percent reduction. The process is always tricky because we have a growing population and we're not going to eliminate any services so it's more so looking at how we can make efficiencies and reduce our emissions."

McKay said she understands the community has an interest in climate change, which she called a "strong positive." Phase 3 of the plan involves consultation with the community.

McKay herself has made lifestyle changes to do more in her personal life toward environmental sustainability, including adopting a vegetarian lifestyle and bringing her own reusable bags and cutlery.

"I think what individuals can do gets a lot of attention, and I think going forward, corporations and government should get more pressure," she said. "I do think individuals have a large role to play, whether that be eating less meat, flying less, reducing their car travel, but you can't put too much pressure on yourself. For example, living in Haliburton [County], you kind of have to drive around, and not all of us can afford an electric vehicle. We can put in as much effort as we can with being an individual, but of course voting is very important, either on the ballot or with our dollar."

Since learning how climate change is linked to other social and economic issues, McKay said it's what she wanted to devote her energy and time toward.

"For me, it's more of an equity injustice issue that those who are least responsible for the problem face the worst impact," said McKay. "To me that's probably the worst part of this whole problem and I think maybe a lot of people don't realize that. It's usually our wealthier, well-developed countries [that] spew out all the greenhouse gas emissions, but it's those who live in more developing areas or small island states that are experiencing the droughts, the floods."

McKay is excited to be in a role in which she feels she can make influence in the climate world.

"It's kind of exciting because I try to look at what other municipalities are doing because we have so much to learn from each other, but there's not a lot of municipalities our size [taking action], so we're kind of going to be a leader in that way."

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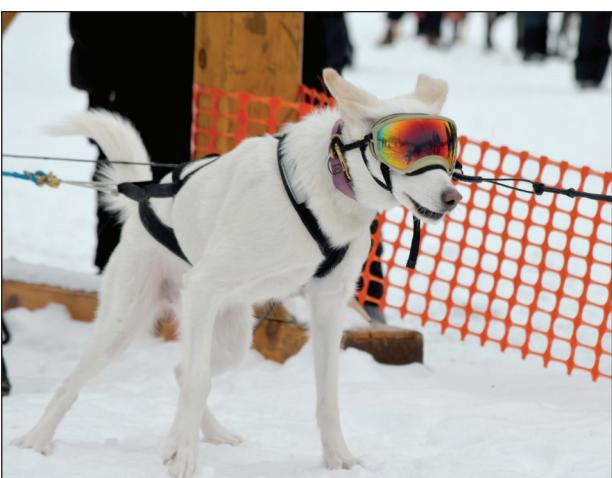


Skijorers Beverly Strain and Leah Witten pass spectators watching from rinks being prepared for next weekend's Canadian Pond Hockey Championships.



Sled dog power

Kimberly Higgins and her team prepare for a four-dog race held Jan. 18 at Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre as part of the Haliburton Highlands Dog Sled Derby. Eighty-one competitors from as far away as New York, Michigan, Timmins and Cochrane and as close as Minden and Haliburton participated in the event. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



While teammates leading the pack were bounding with excitement prior to the race start, Megan Rasmussen's goggled dog was focused in preparation for go time.



Luke Siertsma and his team launch out of the starting gates for the four-dog race.



Charity Cox and Andra Scott go places together.



Don Hutton of Toronto captures the joy of his skijoring partner, Tenasi, who playfully rolled in the snow after the pair crossed the finish line.



Marshal Jim Cunningham, timers Marcel and Leslie Garneau and Hank DeBruin of Winterdance gather round after the skijoring race to review winners.

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Bark Creek Wetland Complex confirmed provincially significant

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The Bark Creek Wetland Complex has been deemed provincially significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Municipal planner Chris Jones told councillors at a Jan. 14 meeting of Highlands East council that he had received notice of the evaluation and confirmation on Nov. 20 last year.

An area identified as provincially significant has a heightened level of protection from a policy perspective, said Jones, noting that development and site alteration cannot be permitted in significant wetlands in Ecoregion 5E, where Haliburton County is located. The collection of wetlands, which Jones said are "just shy of 1,500 hectares," stretch throughout an area that includes Bark Lake Drive, near Bark Lake Leadership and Conference Centre.

"The most notable existing development in this area is the Bark Lake Leadership Centre and further analysis will be undertaken to confirm if the PSW [provincially significant wetland] impacts the existing Bark Lake facility or the draft approved development that has been in place for some time," said Jones. "A cursory review suggests there is no impact given that the Bark Lake facility is located on the south shore of Bark Lake and no PSW wetland features have been identified in this area, according to [the figure provided]."

The MNRF uses the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, or OWES, provincial framework in determining the significance of wetlands. According to the MNRF website, "Wetlands are assessed based on the perceived values of characteristics, activities or expressions of the wetland or its parts that act to maintain ecosystem processes (ecosystem values) or have some utility or amenity value to a segment of society (human utility values)." The site says "examples of ecosystem values include primary production, watershed protection, conservation of biological diversity and maintenance of natural bio-geochemical cycles, while human utility values include food attenuation, recreation, production of harvestable products, water quality improvements and research and education."

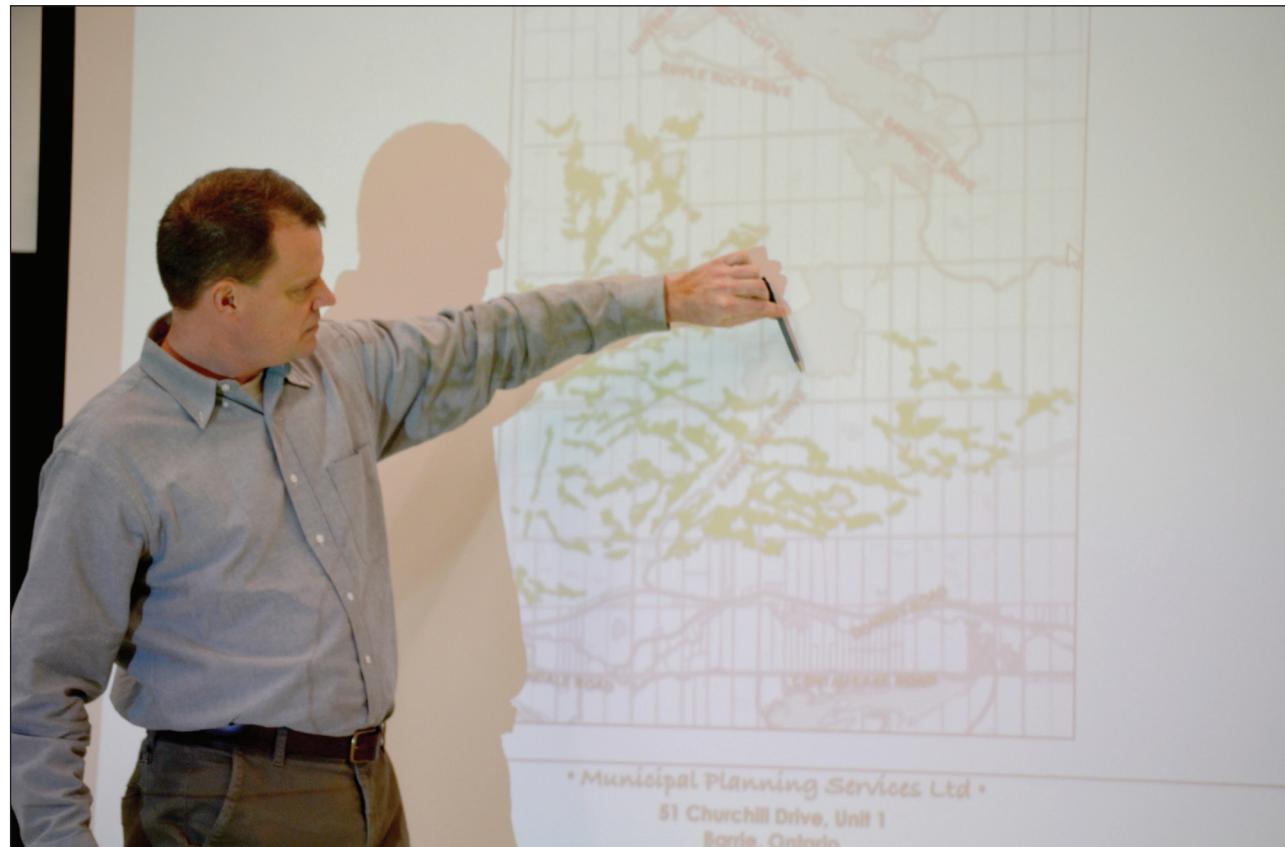
The Bark Creek Wetland Complex was evaluated under the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System by a qualified evaluator, external to MNRF, and then confirmed by MNRF in the fall of 2019, according to Jolanta Kowalski, senior media relations officer with the MNRF.

"The evaluation of wetlands in Ontario is undertaken and/or authorized by the MNRF and its purpose is to identify and categorize wetlands exhibiting characteristics which make them more important or valuable from a natural heritage perspective," said Jones in his report to council.

Wetlands are scored under the following categories: biological component, social component, hydrological component and special features component.

Jones said "the primary implication of the Bark Creek PSW confirmation is that the lands identified ... cannot be developed or altered in the context of a Planning Act approval."

"This is not to suggest that these lands were 'at risk' under the current Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw as these lands were for the most part designated and zoned for environmental protection on the basis that they were known wetland features," he said in his report. He noted the municipality's official plan and zoning bylaw would



Municipal planner Chris Jones shares information about Bark Creek Wetland Complex with Highlands East council on Jan. 14. The area was evaluated and confirmed last November by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to be a provincially significant wetland, said Jones./SUE TIFFIN Staff

"be updated to reflect the new spatial information and policy protection afforded to the complex."

"Provincially Significant Wetlands are afforded protection under the Provincial Policy Statement," Kowalski told the *Echo*. "Municipalities are the primary implementers of the PPS and must ensure municipal planning documents (e.g. official plans, zoning bylaws) include protection policies for natural heritage features, including PSWs, to ensure Planning Act decisions are consist-

ent with the PPS."

Kowalski said other wetlands in Highlands East that have been evaluated and determined to be provincially significant are the Moxley Lake Wetland, the Milburn Wetland Complex, the Esson Lake Wetland Complex and the following wetlands surrounding Paudash Lake: Joe Bay – Paudash Lake Wetland, Central Paudash Lake Wetland and Inlet Bay – Eastern Paudash Lake Wetland.

Rotaract Club launches in Haliburton

A new organization for young adults in Haliburton is holding an information night in February. The Rotaract Club of Haliburton County was formed through a partnership between the Rotary Club of Haliburton and the Young Professionals Network of the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

The new club will bring more service and international opportunities through Rotaract's network of 20,000 clubs in 159 countries, information provided by the new club says.

"The opportunities for the members of the YPN will be greatly enhanced under the Rotaract umbrella," said chamber president Andrea Strano. "The original concept of starting a YPN was to allow for networking and professional development opportunities for young profes-

sionals in our community and the international scope of Rotaract furthers that objective exponentially."

The Haliburton Rotary Club is prepared to offer mentorship and guidance to Rotaract's members, said president Brian Nash. "The opportunities available to members of Rotaract Clubs are many and we are anxious to introduce those opportunities in our community."

Rotaract is for young adults between 18 and 30 years old, offering the opportunity "to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service."

The information night is to take place at Fleming College's Haliburton campus on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

-Staff

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Compensation offered to parents during strike

from page 1

The Trillium Lakelands ETFO local will be picketing school sites as well as MPP Laurie Scott's office and MPP Norm Miller's office.

Responding to the announced job action, Lecce said the government would be offering financial child-care compensation to parents with children up to age 12 for every day strikes keep them out of school.

"While unions impose hardship on families and students, our government is taking proactive steps to ensure students remain cared for – and families supported – in the event that unions decide to further escalate job action in their fight for enhanced compensation and other demands," Lecce said in a statement.

ETFO said the government was trying to bribe parents with their own dollars and indicated that money should be invested into public education.

Meanwhile, high school teachers in Trillium Lakelands District School Board will also be striking on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Issues identified by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation as important in their negotiations include class sizes, mandatory e-learning, and teacher compensation.

OSSTF has said it would postpone job action if the province "agrees to return to, and maintain, the class size ratios and staffing levels that were in place during the 2018–2019 school year."

In 2018–2019, the average class size was 22:1. The province wants to increase the average teacher-to-student ratio to 25:1, OSSTF says.

There will be no strikes by second-

ary school teachers during exam period, OSSTF announced on Jan. 15.

"Throughout this dispute we have made every effort to ensure that our job actions create minimal disruption for students," said OSSTF president Harvey Bischof. "With that objective in mind, OSSTF/FEESO members will not engage in any work disruptions through the crucial exam period."

Lecce said that disrupting school the week before exams put additional pres-

sure on students.

"While parents are frustrated by teacher union escalation every few years, it is unacceptable that OSSTF would ramp up strike action at a time when high school students are preparing for exams. I will continue to focus on reaching voluntary agreements with the teachers' unions, so Ontario students stay in class where they belong," he said.

Trillium Lakelands District School Board issued an update on its website last

week stating that it understood the job action was frustrating and "we hope that a provincial agreement with both ETFO and OSSTF can be reached very soon."

Schools will be closed during the one-day strikes, reopening on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

"Daycares, before and after school programs, and community use of school after-hours programs, are not affected by the strike," the TLDSB update reads.



Stories of Scotland

A Dram to Warm the Hall, an event featuring stories and music from Scotland, brought a crowd to the Haliburton Highlands Museum on Jan. 19 to hear storytellers Susan Charters and Sophy Cooper, alongside Alan Cooper playing bagpipes. The event was held in honour of Robbie Burns Day, which is celebrated Jan. 25.

"I think the most magical thing about an event like this, and I heard similar thoughts from many who were in attendance, is that it really makes the audience be present in that moment," said Kate Butler of the Haliburton Highlands Museum. "That's the power of great storytelling – it takes you on a journey that makes you forget all your other concerns and that's what it's done for thousands upon thousands of years." / SUE TIFFIN Staff

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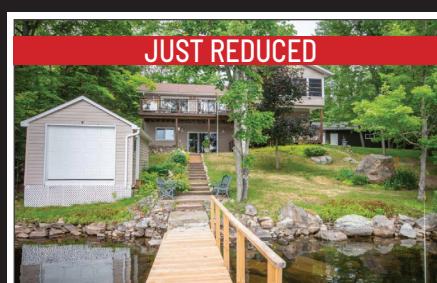
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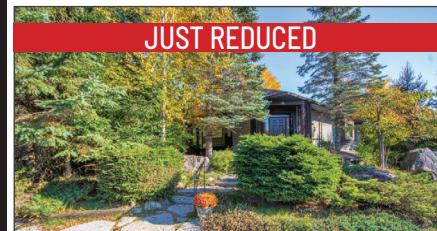
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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Addressing violence in schools

OUR ELEMENTARY schools have a problem with violence. It's a problem in Ontario, a problem in our region and a problem in our local schools. And while it doesn't affect all classrooms, all students or all educators, it warrants action.

The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario has included violence in the classroom as one of the action items it wants to see the provincial government address during contract negotiations. This week, the union is commencing rotating strikes around the province because talks have stalled.

While we are not privy to the specifics of negotiations – and indeed both sides say that the other is being unreasonable – what is clear from the vantage point of Haliburton is that on the topic of violence in schools, something more needs to be done.

In November, the *Echo* reported on a study from the University of Ottawa that surveyed 1,688 elementary school education workers about their experience of violence in the workplace. It found that more than half of educators had experienced "one or more acts of violence during the 2017-2018 school year," mostly perpetrated by students.



jenn
watt

Editorial

At Trillium Lakelands District School Board, there were "982 reports of staff injury from student aggression/violent incidents" in the 2018-2019 school year, the board's spokeswoman said. "This includes when special education staff are intervening with students with special needs. And it also includes students who attempted but did not injure staff."

While the board does provide training to EAs in how to handle these situations and has a behaviour intervention resource team available, more is needed so that everyone can have safe access to school.

Unlike in the past, it's now expected that schools will provide support for children's mental health needs and at TLDSB, the intensity of the need is growing.

What ETFO has asked in the past is for more support staff assigned to help those students who are acting aggressively – educational assistants, psychiatrists and psychologists – to ensure the proper resources are in place.

The union has made this request part of its ask at the bargaining table.

Negotiations, job action, strikes and political strife aside, this is an issue that desperately needs to be addressed.



Winter sky, bare trees

by Darren Lum

Prosperity in 2020

PROSPERITY MEANS so much, literally and figuratively. It implies an abundance of money but it means so much more. Prosperity can apply to friendships and talents and the greatness of each. This word also applies to community. The Village of Haliburton enjoys a prosperous business community in its downtown core. The prosperity of Downtown Haliburton exists because of the talented, smart and wise business people that make it so. Please look around your world and decide how you can increase your personal and community prosperity in 2020. Is it volunteering? Is it shopping local? Whatever "it" is for you we are so excited to benefit from your increased prosperity!

Valentine's Day is just around the corner on Friday, Feb. 14. This is the one day of the year that we celebrate that special someone who brings joy and love to our life. Celebrating this day is an important way of saying thank you for being that special someone. Remember to make your dinner reservations for The Maple Tap & Grill or McKeeks Restaurant if you are planning a nice dinner out. Or drop by Subway or 241 Pizza for a more casual pick-up dinner to enjoy at home. And don't forget to drop by Haliburton Foodland for fresh cut flowers – always a true sign of love!

This year we will celebrate our annual Frostfest on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Head Lake Park. This is a free family friendly event so bring the whole family and enjoy what winter has

to offer and all of the great activities planned for the whole gang. As part of the fun, there will be horse-drawn wagon rides throughout Downtown Haliburton so please join us for this fun day. The Haliburton Lions Club also holds their Polar Bear Dip as part of Frostfest. This is so much fun to watch as the brave of heart jump into Head Lake. Please contact Jim Frost at 705-457-4031 if you would like to participate in the Polar Bear Dip.

We would like to welcome all of the snowmobilers to Downtown Haliburton. Each year Haliburton attracts thousands of sledders. We are a premier destination for daily getaways or weekend adventures. There is a dedicated snowmobile parking lot in the fenced in area at Head Lake.

Our economy benefits from restaurant sales, fuel sales, motel stays, retail purchases and so much more when the snowmobilers choose Haliburton as a destination. Please help us welcome these great tourists.

The Downtown Haliburton Business Association will be hosting our annual general meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. in Dysart et al council chambers. This meeting is open to the public and we welcome you to come out and learn more about what the Downtown Haliburton Business Association does to keep your village a vibrant economic hub. We are very proud of our downtown and love to share all of the news.

Thanks for everything you do to help our beautiful village prosper.

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points of view

Reason to howl

MILLIE LOOKED at me with sad, puppy dog eyes, which is no small feat considering she is 77 in human years.

"I'm sorry," I said, "but rules are rules."

She then cocked her head to the side and gave me a look that said, "The heck with your rules. You are interfering with my way of life."

It was hard not to sympathize with her. After all, for countless millennia, dogs just like Millie have slept on the couches of the humans they have owned.

Some anthropologists have theorized that the relationship between dog and man began and flourished because it was beneficial to each party, but I believe that is only because those anthropologists never factored couch use into the mix. When you do that, it's easy to see the dogs got the best of us.

Yet, in every dog's life there is a moment when the things they view as fundamental rights – the chewing of slippers, barking at anyone who approaches the door and mutual crotch sniffing – are repealed by some misguided human who, frankly, doesn't want to sniff a dog crotch.

So it was for Millie on Friday when our new couch arrived. That couch, which was part of a 10-year plan to redecorate the house until it held no vestiges of fish or antlers, was meant to replace our old couch, which if you ask me, was perfectly fine aside from the coffee stains, dog drool and penchant for hiding the TV remote and stealing small change from hardworking people.

Yet for some unspecified reason – perhaps because its colour went too well with my camouflage coat

– Jenn felt it was time we got a replacement that matched the new paint in the living room. This seemed like an impractical and expensive way to do things, especially since I offered to camouflage the walls for free.

Despite this, we had a vote and Jenn won.

All this was well and good, but it was left to me to relay the bad news to Millie. So I told her, essentially, from now on, she was canine non grata when it came to sleeping on the new couch. And this was something she clearly regarded as a serious erosion of her personal liberties.

Being somewhat sympathetic to her cause and thinking that some day I might need her to be sympathetic to one of mine, I did what I could for her. This included procuring two old comforters and creating a bed for her on the floor beside the heating grate as well as a few other minor things, such as belly rubs on demand and allowing her to watch YouTube videos of squirrels 24/7.

Apparently, it wasn't enough.

Millie spent the whole weekend pining for the old couch, which, I believe, she had put in her will. And the looks she gave us when Jenn and I sat on "the usurper," each taking up clearly more than our share, could only be described as accusatory.

To make matters worse, this is affecting our daily game of fetch – not only is she throwing the ball in hard-to-reach places but she is also now making me sit when I return it.

I keep telling her that this won't last. But that's to no avail either.

Looking back, I believe this whole mess might have been easily avoided by two simple things: introducing the concept to her in a gradual way so she could get used to the idea – or, alternately, by keeping the other couch for her personal use.

I know neither of those would have been viable options but the way it was done was abrupt and a shock to Millie's delicate system – like that cake she once ate. I'm not a dog psychologist but, next time, I think we would do a whole lot better if we bought her a floor pillow first – you know, to cushion the blow.



Loon Tales

steve
galea



pic of the past

This week's Pic of the Past is of the grand opening of what was then the Haliburton IGA. In 1955, the store, owned by Jack Robertson, joined the IGA group, and judging by the model of the car, that's probably when this photo was taken. In 1978 the business outgrew its location and another store was built two doors down. When the IGA vacated the building – an old brick house with a false front – the building was sold to the Bank of Montreal, which tore it down to build a new facility. This photo was taken by George Wheeler and brought to the *Echo* by Doris Wheeler in 1997.

letters to the editor

Stroke survivors are not alone

To the Editor,

Are you or someone you love recovering from a stroke? Do you feel you have a physical or cognitive or neurological impairment? Were you sent home from the hospital with no follow up help? Do you feel lost and don't know where to turn for help? Are you a caregiver of a stroke survivor? Are you looking for answers?

We have that help and answers at the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group. We meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Fireside Lounge at Highland Crest Seniors Home

above the Minden hospital, 6 McPherson St. from 10 a.m. to noon. We offer friendship, health information, sharing of support, exercise, guest speakers, all in a fun, relaxing atmosphere. We show you how to work the health-care system to reach the support system you need. We encourage caregivers to come as well. Stroke is treatable and our goal is to get you back out in society at the level of your capability. Our meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Please join us. You are not alone!

Lois Rigney
Minden Hills



Butler shares her favourite artifacts with CFUW

The Canadian Federation of University Women members were entertained and educated by Kate Butler, director of the Haliburton Highlands Museum at their Jan. 16 meeting at the museum. Butler enthusiastically, and with great animation, told the stories of some of her favourite artifacts. These ranged from a broken tipped quartz spearhead where she imagined an Indigenous person, possibly 9,000 years ago, sitting by the fire throwing the spearhead away in disgust when the tip broke off the nearly completed piece; to imagining the quiet evening paddles Sir Sam Hughes and his family had in his birch bark canoe that is now hanging from the rafters in the museum; to the quilts made by pioneer women from old, well worn clothes, the fabric of which would evoke instant memories. CFUW's next speaker is Feb. 20. Go to www.cfuwhh.ca for more information. /Photo submitted

Education director to retire this summer

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

School will be out this summer in a big way for Larry Hope.

Hope, who's been director of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board for the past decade, announced last week that he will retire at the end of July, officially tendering his resignation during a school board meeting.

He makes no bones that the position has been the pinnacle of his professional life.

"This has absolutely been the highlight of my career to be here for the last 10 years," Hope says, speaking glowingly of the students, teaching staff, support staff and trustees of the board.

Hope has worked in education for 30 years, beginning his career as a teacher in the small town of Ignace, Ont., then working his way through teaching, vice-principal and principal positions in other communities throughout northwestern Ontario, such as Sioux Lookout.

Hope is originally from Thunder Bay.

"I'm transplant down here," he says, adding how much he loves the area.

He then moved into senior positions at the board level, and was director of the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board, which includes a large swath of northwestern Ontario, before taking the helm of TLDSB.

Hope says the greatest singular change he's seen in education during his three decades in the vocation has been the rise of technology in schools in the past 10 to 15 years, transforming everything from the way educational programming is delivered to the way students are

evaluated.

"Teaching and learning really haven't changed a whole bunch," he notes, adding that while the platforms may have become more technologically advanced, education is still fundamentally about teachers connecting with students.

Hope speaks very highly of the board's teachers and students, the strength of relationships and the growing culture of inclusion he's seen throughout the school board during his tenure.

"Those are things I'm so grateful for," he says.

As for what someone who's held a role with so many responsibilities will do with his soon-to-be newfound free time, Hope says he intends to spend more time with his fishing rod than he's been able to, as well as travel with wife Jane and spend time at their home in Reaboro (just outside Lindsay), where they have animals including horses.

"We're just going to do the things we enjoy doing," he says. The couple's two children will both be off pursuing their post-secondary education.

Hope is also a member of the board of governors for Lindsay's Ross Memorial Hospital and sits on some provincial committees, and expects to continue on with that work, as well as do some consulting, thus still doing work in education, but in a different capacity.

He repeatedly stresses his appreciation for the students, staff and board trustees of TLDSB.

"I've had amazing support from trustees," Hope says. "We have a group of trustees who care incredibly about kids, far more than politics, and that makes an incredible difference."

"I'm forever grateful to the people who make the system what it is," he says.



Larry Hope, director of Trillium Lakelands District School Board, will be retiring from his role in July. He has led the school board for the last decade and said he intends to do some fishing, travel and spend time with his wife at their home in Reaboro. /Photo courtesy of TLDSB



County resident wins early bird draw

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation executive director Lisa Tompkins, left, HHHS Foundation board member David Blodgett and HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer watch HHHS Foundation chairman Peter Oyler draw the winning \$1,000 early bird ticket belonging to Algonquin Highlands resident Tanya Titus in the Cash for Care Cash Lottery on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at the HHHS office in Haliburton. Three more draws will be performed on Feb. 14 for \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$20,000. For tickets call the lottery hotline at 705-457-1580 and 705-286-1580, or purchase them in Haliburton at Todd's Independent, Haliburton Foodland, Bank of Montreal and Glecoff's Family Store. In Minden, tickets can be purchased at Dollo's Foodland, TD Canada Trust, Canadian Tire, and On The Spot Variety./DARREN LUM Staff

Province accepting comments on septic field proposal

The Environmental Registry of Ontario is accepting public comments regarding a proposal for the creation of a sewage-spreading field off of the Barry Line between Stanhope and West Guilford, at the address 1197 Barry Line Road.

The proposal is for an Environmental Compliance Approval from the ministry, and details of the property, the operations that would take place there and other information can be found at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1101>.

Comments can be submitted online or by mail. For more information, call Keith Jamieson at 705-755-4300 or email keith.jamieson@ontario.ca.

The public comment period ends Feb. 21.

Staff

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www.haliburtonecho.ca



Did Santa Forget?

If you did not find a Highlands Summer Festival Season Pass in your stocking this Christmas, there is still time to take advantage of our Christmas Season Pass Sale.

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In addition, to receive a \$500 Costco Shop Card by email, submit a redemption form to Costco within thirty (30) days of vehicle delivery and complete a Costco member satisfaction survey. Please allow three weeks for Costco Shop Card delivery, pending completion of all eligibility requirements; including redemption form submission, purchase verification and survey completion. Costco Shop Cards will be emailed to the email address provided to Costco at the time of registration. The purchase or lease of a vehicle does not qualify for the calculation of the Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to this limited time offer. For full program details and for any applicable exclusions see a participating dealer or costcoauto.ca/GM. For Costco Shop Card terms and conditions, visit Costco.ca and search "Shop Card". Tax, title, registration and license fees, personal property registration fees, and additional products and services are not included in the Costco Member Pricing. Offer is valid at participating authorized GM Canada dealers. Offer not available in the U.S. or Mexico. Offer is subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited. Costco and its affiliates do not sell automobiles nor negotiate individual transactions. ^Ω Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ¹ Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles purchased and delivered between January 17, 2020 to January 31, 2020. Lease based on suggested retail price of \$17,598, towards the lease of an eligible 2020 Spark LT Automatic. Bi-weekly payment is \$89 for 48 months at 1% lease rate (1% APR) on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. The \$45 weekly payment is calculated by dividing the bi-weekly payments. 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All rights reserved. ^ε Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada on select vehicles purchased and delivered from January 3, 2020 to January 31, 2020. 0% purchase financing (0% APR) offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 72 months on eligible new 2019 All-New Silverado 1500 Crew Cab RST models. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$49,485 financed at 0% nominal rate (0% APR) equals \$6,688 monthly for 72 months. The offer includes \$1,000 RST Bonus (Tax Exclusive), \$2,650 Cash Delivery Allowance (tax exclusive), \$2,850 Finance Cash (Tax Exclusive) and \$500 option package discount. Cost of borrowing is \$0, for a total obligation of \$49,485. 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HHSS hosts Rocky Horror



For the first time the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School drama students staged the cult-classic musical *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Close to 500 people attended the four performances held from Jan. 12 to 14 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The cast included Jaxon Gill, Trista Greer, Quinten Little and Abigail Kauffeldt. The show's production included co-directors Ryan Merritt and Greg Sadlier. Photos by Darren Lum



Left, HHSS student Codie Wilkinson, as Dr. Frank N' Furter, performs with cast mates at the back, looking on.

The ensemble members included Abigail Kauffeldt, Ruthie Parker, Krystin Hope, Annie Merrifield and Ella Carl.

The production team included Jack Merrifield, Braeden Sharp, Anabelle Craig, Rory Hawley, Cole Prentice, Emily Mathers, Abigail Kauffeldt, Wyatt Hutchings, Trista Greer, Jordy Schell, Jamie Holden, Hailey Anderson, Hannah Sadlier and Dakota C. Sawyer.



Above, HHSS students dance and sing the Time Warp number.

Top left, student April Kovacs, as Columbia performs.



Above, students Rianne Horsley, as Magenta, left, and Wyatt Hutchings, as Riff Raff, share a gun and point it at Dr. Frank 'N' Furter near the conclusion of the musical.

Left, Codie Wilkinson, as Dr. Frank N' Furter holds Macy Mischio, as Janet Weiss, on left, and Jordy Schell, as Brad Majors, on right, by the chin.



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Healthy economy a community effort

from page 1

the local conditions and swimsuits and sandals for those planning to go south for a vacation.

"Right now we're catering to the season with what people are actually doing and what they're needing," she said.

In summer, when the town is bustling, Country Pickin's will have about seven employees, working mostly full-time hours. In winter, that drops to three working part-time hours, plus Bonfield.

She says the economy is in constant rotation – busy in summer, slow in winter – on repeat.

"What you do all summer basically is paying almost for your winter before," she said.

At the Ethel Curry Gallery, owner Wayne Hooks also pares down for the winter, reducing the number of days open. In 2019, he made the decision to close for the month of February, opening only Saturdays. He said he intends to do that again this year.

"Our experience has been that February almost no one came in the gallery," Hooks said. "I finally decided, and I hate to lay the staff off for a month, but you have to. I decided I had to."

There are two employees at the gallery, which is celebrating 25 years in business, aside from Hooks.

It's been suggested to him that the gallery could close for the winter, but he said he's never considered it. "I think it's partly because all we need is one customer to come up on a nice snowy weekend and buy an \$8,000 painting and that makes that month all worthwhile, which we would have missed had we closed in the winter," he said.

Hooks, who is a woodworker, sells his work along with that of another 100 artists at the gallery. Many of those artists are local and the vast majority of the paintings, stained glass, pottery and jewelry has a distinctly cottage country aesthetic. Over the last 25 years, sales have accounted for about \$4 million. When a piece is sold, the artist gets a percentage and the gallery gets a percentage.

Hooks points out that his customer base is not the same as many of the retailers in downtown Haliburton, however when an art gallery does well, it is an indication that shoppers have more discretionary income available to them. His business was hit hard by the aftershocks of the 2008 recession and had a difficult 2018 year, but said 2019

was better.

"Overall last year, including the summer, for our gallery, we were up. ... This year, August/September/October turned out to be better than average. That raised our bottom line to better than the last few years, which was and still is encouraging."

Home Hardware has also seen steady growth in sales and customers since Jerry and Dale Walker purchased the business in 2014, which motivated them to move forward with their new building on County Road 21.

"We've noticed a substantial increase in sales, a substantial increase in customer counts and average sales per customer," said Dale Walker. "We're very pleased and obviously that's what kept us going to do the project that we did [to] move the store and increase the size and increase staffing and so on and so forth."

Walker said she's watched the village of Haliburton grow over the years, from the new grocery stores and drugstores to the addition of more boutique-style shops and attractive restaurants.

"The more we can offer the consumer to purchase here, the better it is for all of us. It keeps them in town shopping locally and then in turn our business, we support the community and we like to continue to support the community because the community supports us."

Aside from a couple of staff members who go south in the winter, Home Hardware employs people year-round and Walker said they use the winter months as a time to get organized and prepare for the summer.

She said they use statistics on sales from previous years to decide what to stock, but it's an imperfect science.

"It's always a guessing game. [It] keeps us on our toes," she said.

Daniel Manley, owner of Russell Red Records, said he's been pleasantly surprised by shopping patterns in Haliburton. When he opened on Canada Day weekend alongside MixTape Vintage, owned by Heidi Hudspith, the plan was to close after Labour Day. But as September approached, things were going well enough to encourage them to keep going, deciding to continue until December.

"Our December was fantastic and nearly rivalled the summer months. We were really happy about that," Manley said. So, they've stayed open and plan to continue year-round.

“

The more we can offer the consumer to purchase [in Haliburton], the better it is for all of us.

— Dale Walker
Home Hardware

Manley said the success of the business is in part because of low staffing costs. Between Hudspith and Manley and a couple of their friends, they only need to employ someone one day a week. Manley said he's also kept his day job.

"I kind of end up using the phrase that we're a bit of a passion project and with some help from my friends ... we're keeping this open and seeing how it goes," he said.

Winter is definitely slow, Manley said, but so far sales have been steady enough to justify staying open.

"I suppose we expected a bit more of a ghost town, but we have had some nice sales come through and that's good enough, given our model, to pay the rent and order more product in," he said.

At Ethel Curry Gallery, Hooks said he personally finds running the business fulfilling, which keeps him motivated to continue. He said he finds the work mentally stimulating and he enjoys getting the chance to interact with the artists, staff and customers.

Bonfield said she is similarly energized by the work she does.

"My staff and myself, we really like what we do. We like our customers, they're almost like friends. We have a pretty loyal following. You get to know them and you get to buy for them. We have a lot of laughs. We hear a lot of stories. We've watched their kids grow up. Now their kids are coming and they're adults now. It's kind of like one big family," she said.

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For peat's sake: preserving wetlands in the Haliburton Highlands

JENN WATT

Editor

Mapping wetlands is one of the first steps to providing them legal protection, prohibiting development that could hinder their ability to filter water, mitigate flooding, safeguard wildlife, and sequester carbon.

On the heels of a recent mapping project in Minden Hills on behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, biologist Paul Heaven spoke at an Environment Haliburton/HHLT event in Haliburton Jan. 14 about the different types of wetlands that exist, why they're important and what threatens their existence.

With the assistance of a federal government grant, the land trust evaluated the Kendrick Creek Wetland Complex, accounting for 840 hectares (about 2,076 acres) from the Barry Wetland to Snowdon Park to Gelert. Heaven said the land is provincially significant; when the paperwork is complete, that designation will afford the property protections against development.

Evaluation projects are crucial to preserving wetlands, Heaven said.

"By getting a good mapping base and fully understanding where our wetlands are, how much wetland we actually have, might avoid conflicts where one consultant is saying 'there's no wetland there,' one is saying 'it is there,' the planner's in the middle going, 'where do I go from here?'" Heaven said.

Kendrick Creek was a test project and the land trust hopes that more mapping will follow.

He specified that the wetland mapping is different from the LiDAR mapping that is underway. Wetlands don't all look the same. Depending on how much the water



Attendees of biologist Paul Heaven's talk on wetlands participate in an interactive demonstration on how wetlands help reduce flooding. The funnels represent the lakes, each flowing into the next, until they get to the bottom, which represented the amount of water rushing into downtown Minden. Sponges represented wetlands and participants were asked to place them in the funnels to reduce the flow of water. /JENN WATT Staff

stagnates, they can be quite fluid, as in the case of marshes, or relatively solid, as you might find in a bog.

"When you're looking at a black spruce swamp on a treed landscape, the level's the same, it's not necessarily a dip or anything, it's a flat surface," he said.

Heaven explained to the group that there are four types of wetlands: marshes,

fens, bogs and swamps.

Peat, created in bogs and fens from dead plant material, looks a lot like soil, but is actually nutrient-rich and has a long history with humans. When burned, it can create a heat source and people have used it for cooking and home heating. It's also good for agriculture, adding nutrients to the soil.

Heaven said it takes about 1,000 years for one metre of peat to accumulate and when he's doing his work on wetlands, he'll often sink his auger 10 metres into the peat.

"Some of the stuff I'm pulling up is actually 10,000 years old," he said.

"If you're looking at that peat and you see a leaf or a seed in that, that leaf or seed could be 10,000 years old."

Peat also has a gloomier history in Europe, where it seems it was a favoured resting place for corpses – particularly of people who were murdered. Heaven said many well-preserved bodies have been found in bogs overseas.

The Lindow Man, for example, was discovered in 1984 in a bog in northwest England. Reporting suggests he was a man in his 20s, with evidence of strangulation and trauma to the head and cuts on the throat. It's estimated he died between 2 BC and 119 AD.

"They're not rotting; they're thousands of years old, but they're not rotting at all," Heaven said of the bodies found. (Many animals have also been discovered in bogs, perhaps stepping in the wrong spot and sinking in.)

Heaven said there are guidelines to keeping wetlands healthy, including keeping a vegetation buffer and a sizeable setback between the wetland and any residence, using floating docks or pier-supported docks, and refraining from activities that would alter the drainage.

He said he worried about the activity of some off-road vehicles, which are being built with waterproof features, encouraging riders to take them through swamps and marshes.

"Taking an ATV through a wetland not only destroys the habitat, it completely changes the hydrology of that wetland," he said.

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South River sawmill adds to Haliburton Forest's offerings

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Close to a year after acquiring Almaguin Forest Products sawmill, Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve is optimistic about growth at the South River facility.

The purchase of the sawmill, which was founded by Kirk Micallef and his family more than 25 years ago, in February 2019 makes the Forest one of the largest hardwood lumber producers in Ontario serving customers throughout eastern North America, with customers based in Ontario, eastern Canada and the U.S.

Haliburton Forest and Wild Life and Reserve's managing director, Malcolm Cockwell said this investment is typical of the Forest and its long range plans.

"We're proud of where we come from. Haliburton Forest has grown and continues to grow. We're in it for the very long term. We look at our investment window as being 120 years or so. We're not in it for five years and [then] we're going to get out. We're in it for 120 years. The 120 years is an average age for a mature sugar maple tree here so that's why we choose that as our investment window. Now the trees that are taking root today will be mature by the time if ever we're divesting," he said.

Cockwell said 10 to 15 years ago Haliburton Forest was a smaller company, operating on 60,000 acres.

It's grown to include 100,000 acres, tourism and recreation divisions, innovative initiatives such as Haliburton Forest Biochar, two sawmills and timber licences with Westwind Forest Stewardship as its operator and shareholder, which is a Crown forest management entity in the French Severn Region in Ontario.

"We don't overlook the fact that there is still a lot of work to do. Like I said, continuous improvement is a big part of our focus. We got to keep getting better. We're pretty proud of where we come from," he said.

Cockwell said the Forest purchased modern equipment for the South River facility this past July.

Although this update enabled greater production, it came with a learning curve and delays due to new operation practices. At the Forest, there is a four-foot (in diameter) circular saw while the South River facility added a 12-inch double cut bandsaw with an on board log turner.

"The act of maintaining, sharpening, repairing,

installing etc. saws is way more of an art than science," Cockwell said. "Like a log with some mud frozen to it, it's a problem [for the circular saw]. It's inconvenient. The sawyer's not very happy about it, but if you get a muddy log with a double cut bandsaw like at South River, that could shut down the mill for an hour because the saw is so much more sensitive to mud and snow that are embedded into the wood. So that's a bit of a learning experience that, you know, we probably lost a fair bit of time from that," he said.

He adds over time the crew has learned from these kinds of experiences and productivity is increasing, and edging closer to the projected target of 20-25 thousand board feet per shift.

"We're not at full, full capacity quite yet, but we know we're not far away from it," he said.

Cockwell said improvement is part of the process, as mill managers for the Forest and for Almaguin received training at a sawmill in Quebec last week, which was set up similarly to the South River facility.

There are 17 full-time permanent staff employed at the Almaguin Forest Products sawmill and close to 25 independent logging contractors who work in the bush to supply the sawmill.

He did not disclose the value of investment made in the sawmill in South River, but said "it's probably one of the largest investments in a sawmill in South River in quite a while."

Virtually none of the wood from the 100,000 acres at the Haliburton Forest is used at the South River facility. The wood for AFP comes from a mix of sources such as the Forest's sister property, the Limberlost Forest and Wildlife Reserve, located close to Huntsville, Crown licences through the Westwind Forest Stewardship, and through partners such as various logging crews.

As new equipment is added and the sawmill's production increases, there is a chance there will be an additional fulltime employee or two added, Cockwell said.

The Forest provides what is known as the "low end" of the hardwood lumber market, which is used in industrial applications such as making pallets, frame stock and railway ties unlike "high grade" lumber used in furniture and cabinets.

Cockwell said he hasn't ruled out exporting wood overseas, but is happy with his customer base and there is always work to improve on current operations.

"It's more about running our facilities as efficiently and productively as we can rather than chasing down

“

We're proud of where we come from. Haliburton Forest has grown and continues to grow.

— Malcolm Cockwell

or creating new markets," he said.

There is a belief in the hardwood lumber sector and if another hardwood sawmill came up for sale, Cockwell said he would consider it.

He clarified the geographic region for expansion is about an estimated two-hour distance from each of the sawmills.

A long-term outlook taken by the Forest is important.

Cockwell characterizes the current market for hardwood as "challenging," due to the trade issues between U.S. and China, resulting in 25 per cent of lumber staying in the U.S. instead of being exported to China, depressing prices for hardwood.

"But if you're in it for the long-haul and if you fundamentally believe in the long-term success of the hardwood lumber sector, you weather those storms. You just try to run your business as efficiently as you can, try to work with really good people and keep those good people and over the long haul you will succeed," he said.

Employees working on different facets of the Forest's operations get along well, Cockwell said.

"It's two very different groups of people, but ... there is enough common ground and enough of a shared passion for the land itself that we all get along really well and we work towards a common goal of trying to run a viable and environmentally friendly and socially responsible business on this land base so that it can exist forever. That's why we get into so many pots, because having these multiple businesses working together creates for a stronger company and they complement each other very well," he said.

Highlands East continues to work on doctor recruitment

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the Jan. 14 meeting of Highlands East council.

The municipality of Highlands East and County of Hastings might still work together to bring a doctor to the area through a joint recruiting project despite a previous recruit not working out.

The two municipalities entered into a Doctor Recruitment Cooperation Agreement in April 2013, agreeing to provide financial assistance to a medical student in order to attract the student to then practice medicine on a shared basis in the Municipality of Highlands East and in the County of Hastings after their graduation from medical school.

A student had entered into agreement with the municipality and county but later was, "unable to fulfill her obligation and returned her financial assistance," according to a report to council by Shannon Hunter, Highlands East CAO/treasurer.

"The County of Hastings has reached out to us seeking interest on continuing with a joint agreement," Hunter told council in her report. "If we wish to continue, an amendment to the original agreement would be required, as Hastings County has since reduced its incentive from \$150,000 over six years to \$100,000 over five years." Both Hastings County and Highlands East would contribute \$10,000 per year.

"I think the fact that this one didn't work out doesn't change the fact that we still have a problem," said Dep-

“

I think the fact that this [doctor recruitment attempt] didn't work out doesn't change the fact that we still have a problem.

— Deputy Mayor Cec Ryall

uty Mayor Cec Ryall, and asked if the municipality had spoken to Cheryl Kennedy, who joined the county as a physician recruiter last year.

Hunter said she and Mayor Dave Burton had met with Kennedy twice to discuss ideas with her and provide information about what was required in Highlands East.

The report was accepted by council for information only.

New bylaw officer introduced

Bylaw enforcement officer Wayne Galloway introduced and welcomed Kristen Boylan as a bylaw enforcement officer to the department. Boylan has worked as municipal law enforcement officer with Dysart et al for the past three years.

Boylan has been a full-time resident of Haliburton County for the past 12 years, and a seasonal resident of Highlands East prior to that. She has an extensive back-

ground in the law and security field, working as an auxiliary police officer with the Owen Sound police service and as a nuclear security officer with Bruce Power. Galloway said Boylan is studying to become a certified municipal law enforcement officer.

"Kristen is an outgoing individual that enjoys liaising with members of the community she serves," he said.

Public comment on fireworks restrictions and bans being accepted

A draft fireworks bylaw is expected to be ready for the Feb. 11 council meeting, according to fire chief Chris Baughman.

"Currently we are accepting public input regarding restrictions or a total ban of fireworks through the municipal website," he said, noting he has received some input from cottage association groups and through the website to date.

“

We are accepting public input regarding restrictions or a total ban of fireworks ...

— Fire chief Chris Baughman



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Hawks will grow from narrow loss

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

With hands on heads, shirt collars held by teeth, hands slapping on outstretched arms, and calls for a foul, Red Hawks players and head coach Paul Longo exhibited their disbelief at a lack of foul call on the eventual final possession play of 43-42 loss to the undefeated Wildcats of I.E. Weldon on Thursday, Jan. 16 in Haliburton.

The commotion was directed at the official closest to the play because of what the Hawks believed was a foul committed against Camden Marra, who scored on a circus shot, made after a missed three-pointer.

"It is what it is. It's basketball. You got to try and fight for everything, you know. It looked like a little bit of a foul on the last play of the game here, but I'm really impressed we were able to put a shot up," Longo said. "We designed a play for a three-point shot for Holden [Dupret-Smith]. Camden did a hell of a job getting in there to get that board and got that shot up and can't believe it went in, but it looked like a foul, but I'm not going to get upset."

The close loss hurts, but Longo believes the team will learn from the experience.

"I'm so proud these guys. Weldon [came in] 6-0 in our league right now and we gave them everything they can handle today. I thought we were the better team overall. I think we missed some easy layups and easy shots in the first half that could have been the difference. I'm really, really proud of our effort. Every single guy gave everything they have on both ends of the floor. To hold a team like Weldon to 43 points is pretty good, really good. I love our tenacity and our fight. We fight for everything. We don't give up on a play, even if we make a mistake. We come back and correct it. We just don't give up on anything. That's just the character of these guys. All 14 of them," he said.

The Hawks are 3-3 in league play as of Monday morning, Jan. 20. Longo points out the Hawks were dominated by the Wildcats earlier in the season, losing by 20 on Dec. 10 in Lindsay. He said this game shows how far the team has progressed in the past two months.

The Hawks were missing "big man" Joe Boice at the five and Mike Stephen.

Coming into the game, the team was on a roll, winning two league games in a row, beating the Titans of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary 64-46 and then the Brock Bulldogs 52-38.

The potential for success is looking good after this close game with the Wildcats.

"If we can take a good AAA [school] team to a one possession game like that then we should be able to use that as motivation in our A [school] games," he said.

The Hawks defence is relentless and easily translated into a dozen turnovers in each half.

Longo wondered aloud if the team could have won the game, if they could

have converted just one of these turnovers into two points.

Longo loved his entire team's effort, but made a point of acknowledging Ethan Glecoff, Ryan Mee, Carson Phillips and Brenden Newhook.

A tournament in Bracebridge at the end of the upcoming exams will be used as a tuneup for February.

The team has two league games left and one day of interlock action, which includes two games.

The Hawks are currently the No. 1 A seed in Kawartha West with a 3-3 as of Monday, Jan. 20. There are four league games left in the season.

There is a belief that resides with the team when it comes to success.

Longo said his team is never intimidated despite the majority of the team being in Grade 11. There is a long term goal for this young team.

"We have a goal. Our goal in Grade 12 [next year] is to try and get an OFSAA berth for A [schools]. So we're trying," he said.

Longo gave credit to the Weldon player who sank the three-pointer to tie the game 37-37 with 5:45 left in the game. Up to that point, both teams were struggling to score.

The rest of the game came down to which team could execute and turnover the ball less.

"Great game. Two, I thought, evenly matched teams and, you know, the basketball gods went the other way and that's OK," he said.

Red Hawks post player Ethan Glecoff collides with an I.E. Weldon defender who draws the charge during Kawartha High School Basketball League action on Thursday, Jan. 16 in Haliburton. The Red Hawks lost 43-42, but pushed the undefeated Wildcats on the Hawks' final possession, which led to two points scored by Marra from a miss (and what Hawks thought could have been an and-one scoring opportunity to tie the game). /DARREN LUM Staff



Red Hawks guard Camden Marra leaps to the net, as a Wildcats of I.E. Weldon defender looks for the block.



Red Hawks guard Camden Marra gets tangled with a Wildcats of I.E. Weldon defender.

sports



And they're off!

Racers competed in the Ontario Snowboard Speed Series ski cross and snowboard cross at Sir Sam's Ski/Ride on the weekend. The event was the first of a five-race series with two races at Sir Sam's.

More than 90 racers from Ontario competed, bringing their family members to the Highlands.

Left, racers power around a bend on Jan. 19. The three-day event included practice on Friday and races on Saturday and Sunday. Sir Sam's has been hosting races as part of this series for nearly 10 years. /TIM TOFFLEMIRE Special to the Echo

Hawks prioritize development

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Two dominant victories, one against the visiting Brock Bulldogs and the other against the Titans of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary were just a byproduct of the development of the senior Red Hawks girls' volleyball team, said their coach Steve Smith.

The Hawks beat the Bulldogs 2-0 (25-22 and 25-20) and then beat the Titans 2-0 (25-17 and 25-14).

The exhibition home wins on Monday, Jan. 13 at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School provided Hawks supporters plenty to cheer for and gave the players confidence, but for Smith this time of the season with exhibition matches is about learning, developing and working to meet the team's potential for a deep run into the playoffs, which begin in February.

"Wins will help their confidence, but, as I said before, losses actually help with their development as well because then they don't think they can win every time they go out. I want them to have that attitude when they get on the court that they can win whatever, or whoever they play," he said. "Today, they're going in the right direction."

The team demonstrated the ability to raise their level of play, stringing together several deep, low and hard serves, and employing an effective attack even when the initial return of serve pass is not cleanly taken. Against the Bulldogs and Titans it was apparent their level of play was superior.

Although the win and loss record on the day isn't that important, the score does provide quantified information for evaluation. Smith said the close match with the Bulldogs was partly owed to being at home.

"The first match I think they were just nervous with being at home, or whatnot. We had a little talk about that. I tried to get them to settle down and just play their style of volleyball, which they did. That's the volleyball that I know of right there," he said, referring to com-

posed play, strong serving and passing with precision.

Smith said the team is trending in the right direction during their exhibition matches before the Kawartha qualifier.

"Every match, every point I see some improvement," he said.

The team includes Alexis Mills, Alyssa Bogardis, Ania Smolen, Emma Casey, Gillian Rosik, Haley Boylan, Jordyn Nichols, Rebecca Archibald, Ruthie Parker and Skye Lambshead.

The captains of the senior team are Emma Casey and Rebecca Archibald. The coaching staff for the seniors includes Michelle Backus.

Junior Hawks win and split matches

One court over, separated by a space for warm-ups, the juniors were also playing concurrently.

They won 2-0 (25-13 and 25-14) against Brock to open their afternoon, but tied the Titans 1-1 (25-11 and 22-25) to finish the day.

Coach Dan Gimon said he was happy about the team's overall performance.

However the lone loss was attributed to a loss of mental focus and the team will move on and improve from what he called a "terrible" last set, which saw a loss of 10 points to serving errors mainly.

Gimon said he knows the team can be better.

It's the mental part that, again, we will work on," he said. "We have to get those serves over."

His message to the team was simple:

"It's up to you guys. I can tell you what to do, but once you're out there you guys have to perform," he said.

Red Hawks senior player Rebecca Archibald watches her hit elude the block of Brock Bulldogs defenders during Kawartha High School League action on Monday, Jan. 13 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. The Hawks beat the Bulldogs 2-0 (25-22 and 25-20) and then finished the day of exhibition play undefeated, beating the Titans of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School 2-0 (25-17 and 25-14). /DARREN LUM Staff



Drive for victory falls short

Red Hawks junior player Nick Phippen drives the ball into the key against a I.E. Weldon Wildcats defender during Kawartha High School Basketball League action on Thursday, Jan. 16 in Haliburton. The Hawks lost the game 49-37, but had a standout game from Jackson Wilson, who finished with 17 points to lead the team. /DARREN LUM Staff



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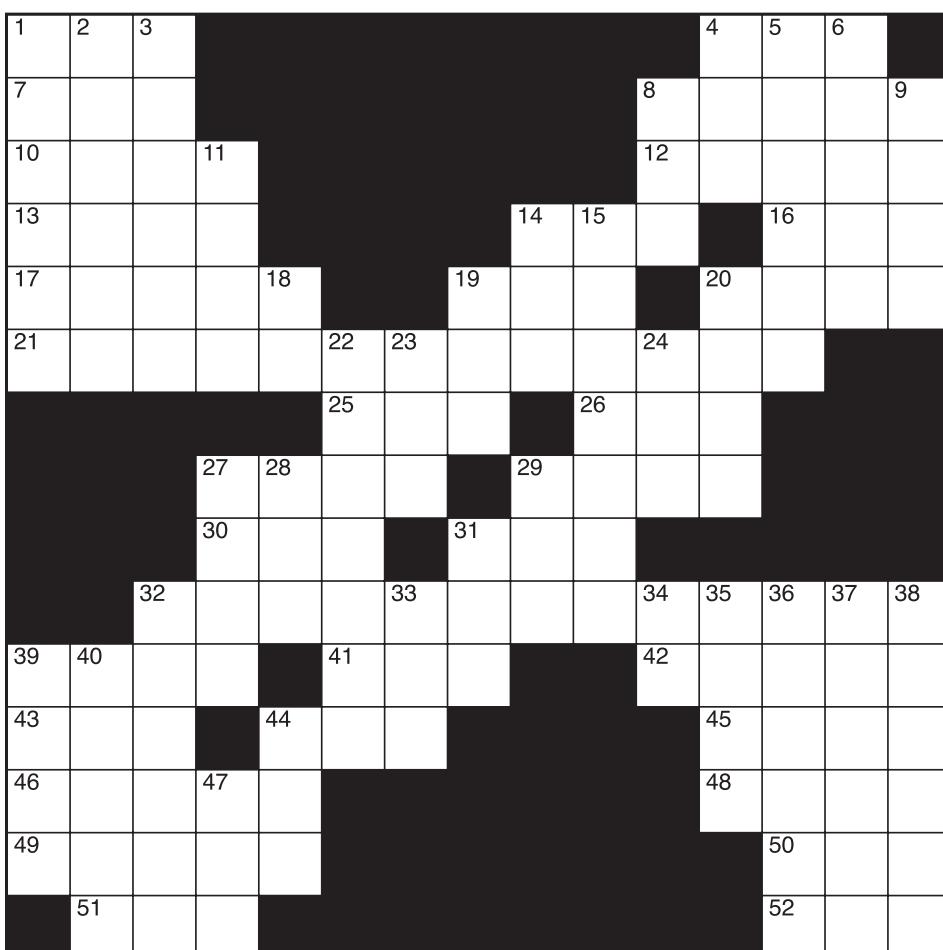
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CLUES ACROSS

- Expression of disgust
- A place to unwind
- A type of cooking range
- Grasp tightly
- Sea eagles
- Carb dish
- Late-night host
- Revolutions per minute
- Indicates odd or erroneous
- FDR's military chief of staff
- Swiss river
- Norwegian district and river
- A form of motivation
- Car mechanics group
- Once a must-have home theater accessory
- Broken branch
- Apple and pumpkin are two
- Skeletal muscle
- Small Eurasian deer
- Tight-lipped fellow
- Comes after a cut
- A place one lives
- Cognizant of

CLUES DOWN

- Spanish dish
- Concurs
- __and her sisters
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Used to refer to cited works
- A state of excited movement
- Advertising term (abbr.)
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- New York art district
- Bravo! Bravo!
- Pre-release viewing
- Northwestern Canadian territory (abbr.)
- Consumed
- Falters

43. Albanian monetary unit

- Carrot's partner
- Famed garden
- Chilean seaport
- Days (Spanish)
- Sudden anxiety
- 100 square meters
- A type of beer
- French/Belgian river

CLUES DOWN

- Supervises flying
- Northwestern state
- Was obligated to repay
- Diverging in lines from a common center
- Bleak
- We all have them
- Hit with the palm of one's hand
- Sea that's part of the western Pacific
- Political action committee
- Famed Spanish soldier
- El __

Answers on page 22



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT at its meeting to be held **Monday, February 10th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Administration Building, County of Haliburton Office, 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario, this Application for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

- File No. H-023/19
Applicant: Robert Lee
Location of the Property: Pt Lot 5, Concession 11 & 12, Geographic Township of Guilford
Nature of the Application: Lot Addition

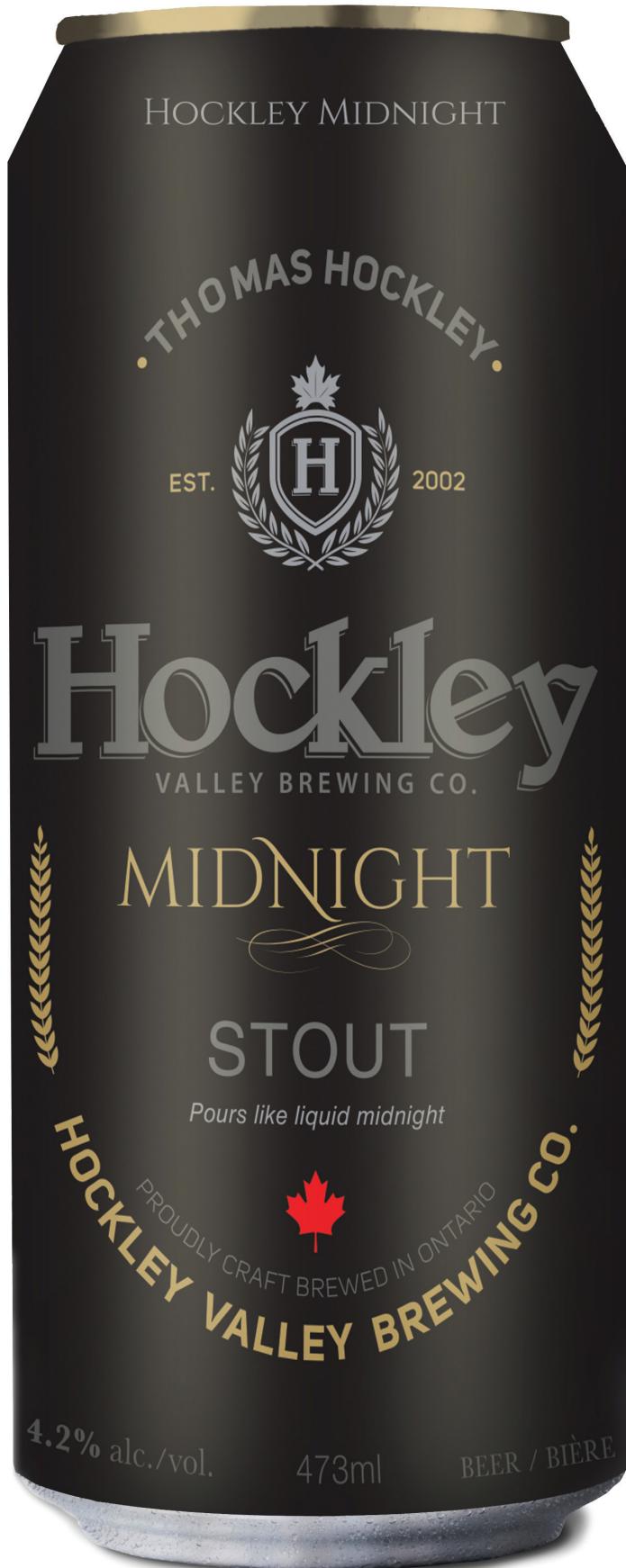
Additional information regarding any of the above-noted applications is available for public inspection at the Land Division Office by appointment during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills this 21st day of January, 2020.

Lisa Gillan
Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 248
Fax: (705) 286-4829
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Wilberforce Heritage Guild Annual General Meeting

When: Wednesday Jan. 22, 7 p.m.

Where: The Red Cross Outpost Historic House Museum,
2314 Loop Road in Wilberforce

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Sexual Health Clinic

When: Wednesday, Jan. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205

Haliburton Highlanders Pipes & Drums

Robbie Burns Night

When: Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

Where: Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion
Pipes & Drums, dancing, Scottish music, A taste of haggis and fixings

\$20.00 per person. Tickets available at Canoe FM. 705-457-1009

Only 100 tickets, so get yours now!

Community Conversation on Living and Dying Well

When: Monday, Jan. 27, 1 to 3 p.m.

Where: Dorset Recreation Centre Hospice
Pull up a chair, grab a coffee and join in the conversation.
Open discussion about life to end of life journey.
Supported group chat to ask questions about issues of concern to you in your journey. Facilitated discussion to develop and share strategies on living and dying well.

Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd & No Friends

When: Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 to 5 p.m.

Where: Minden Legion

Lunch available to purchase from 12 to 2 p.m., Meat Draw at 1 p.m.

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association monthly meeting

When: Monday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

Where: HCSA Clubhouse, 1711 Mallard Road in Haliburton's Industrial Park.

It's a busy time for the HCSA with a number of projects on and off trail projects on the go. For further info email info@hcsa.ca or call 705-457-4263. Everyone is Welcome

100 Women Who Care Winter Meeting

When: Tuesday, Feb. 4

Where: The Dominion Hotel, Dining Room, Minden

Time: Social and Registration 6:30 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.
We are 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County. We meet 3 times a year for one hour to raise money for local charities. Since we began we have raised over \$50,000. Why not come and see how we do it - it's awesome and it's fun!

Kinmount and District Educational Bursary Annual Fundraiser Dinner/Auction

When: Saturday, Feb. 8, Doors Open at 5 p.m.

Dinner is at 6 p.m.

Where: Galway Hall

To reserve tickets, phone 705 488-3053

Tickets: \$20 each



Red Hawks forward Braeden Robinson moves the puck, staying ahead of Cobourg Collegiate Institute Wolves defender Wyatt Groves during Kawartha High School Hockey League action on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The Hawks lost 3-1 to the Wolves. Hawks rookie forward Will Craftchick scored his first goal of the season in the loss. /DARREN LUM Staff

Home loss for Hawks against Wolves

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

A pair of posts, a dollop of bad luck and six more minutes of penalties than their opponents for the Red Hawks hockey team was the recipe for a 3-1 loss to the visiting Wolves on Wednesday, Jan. 15 in Haliburton.

Hawks coach Jason Morissette said he liked how his team played overall, but delivered a post-game message to stay out of the penalty box, particularly for major infractions.

"You got to stay disciplined," he said. "Taking those four-minute penalties. There were a few there."

Early on, the teams played four-on-four, which favoured the quick skating Wolves, Longo said.

"It's hard to score when you're not five-on-five and you're not getting the powerplays, right? We did not get a powerplay goal. Our goal was [scored] on a five-on-five so again ... it's choices that they have to make. And again if your team is not as skilled as the other team through the lineup then you know you have to play the system you're taught because the system ... if you got a team that is skating or has more skaters than you do you play the system to keep you in the game and it gives you more chances," he said.

Despite the loss, Morissette said the team has likely earned enough wins to have assured itself a Kawartha League playoff spot.

No 1 goalie for the Hawks Carson Sisson was tagged

with the loss.

The Hawks had four defencemen play in this game, including rookie Ty Mills, who Morissette credited with a solid game, as evidence of his development.

The lone goal in the loss came from rookie Will Craftchick, who has played three games this season and was out of the lineup the first four because of a concussion suffered with another team in another league.

The Grade 10 student said scoring his first of his high school career and first of the season was awesome.

"It was more the other guys working than me. I ended up in the right spot and I just got rewarded, I guess. It's amazing," he said.

The team has been competitive this season, particularly against the top teams and this game was an example of that.

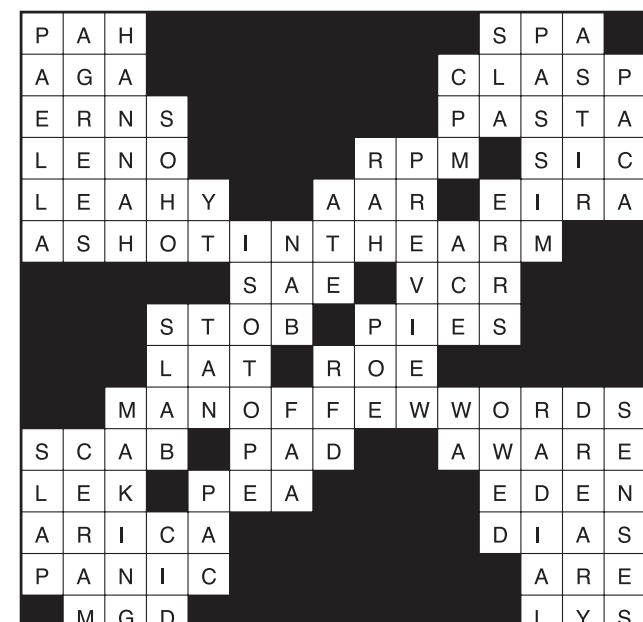
"It's a learning experience for them, but again that game could quite easily have been 3-2, even 3-3. Even in the second [Braeden] Robinson hits a post. If that goes in we're going to the third [down] 3-2," he said. "Our main offensive guys [who are Robinson, Lucas Haedicke and Desi Davies] they had opportunities. They played well. The puck just didn't go post and in. It went post and out."

Hawks notes:

A game before this loss the Hawks shut out the Knights of Norwood 7-0 while on the road.

Rookie goalie Darian Maddock earned the shutout, his first of the season. Braeden Robinson tallied three goals to earn the hat-trick.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Council, at their January 28th, 2020 meeting, will be considering the following fee changes:

- By-law No. 2014-30 – Building Permit By-law – Schedule A to the By-law is being amended to include a Building Permit Administration Fee and a change to the Septic Evaluation Fee.
- DYMO Bus Rates are being increased effective April 1, 2020. Current rates have been in place since 2015.

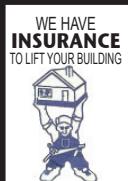
Further information on these fee changes will be available on the website.

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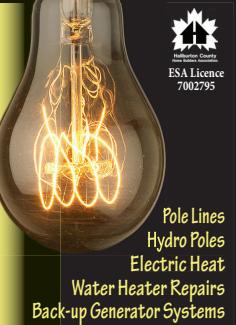
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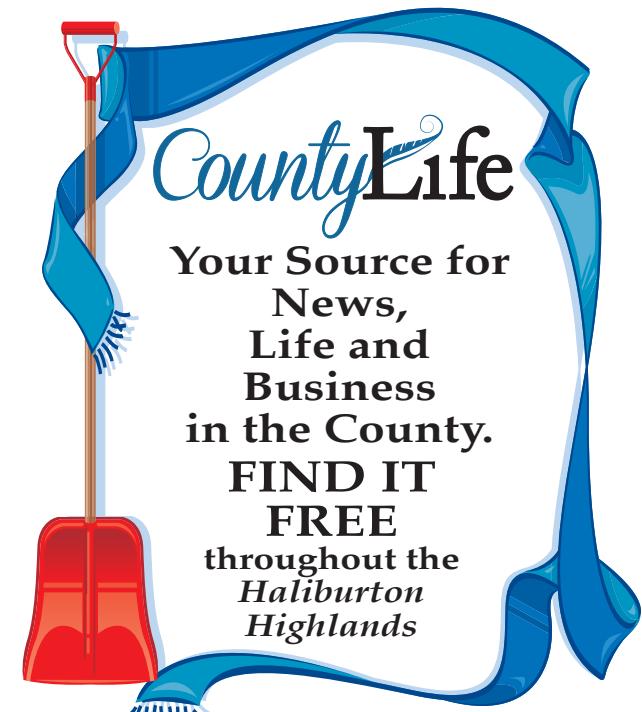
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We are currently working on a new publication called County Life Magazine that will be distributed beginning in April 2020. This magazine will be celebrating the successes in the Haliburton Highlands and much more.

This magazine will also include a Non-Profit Community Service Directory. There will be no charge to have your non-profit service included in this directory. If you would like your service included in this listing, please email Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

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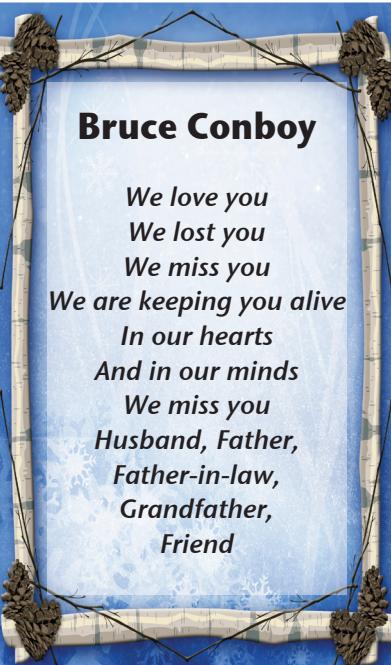
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That meant so much
to me."

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by wife Betty Anne
& Family*

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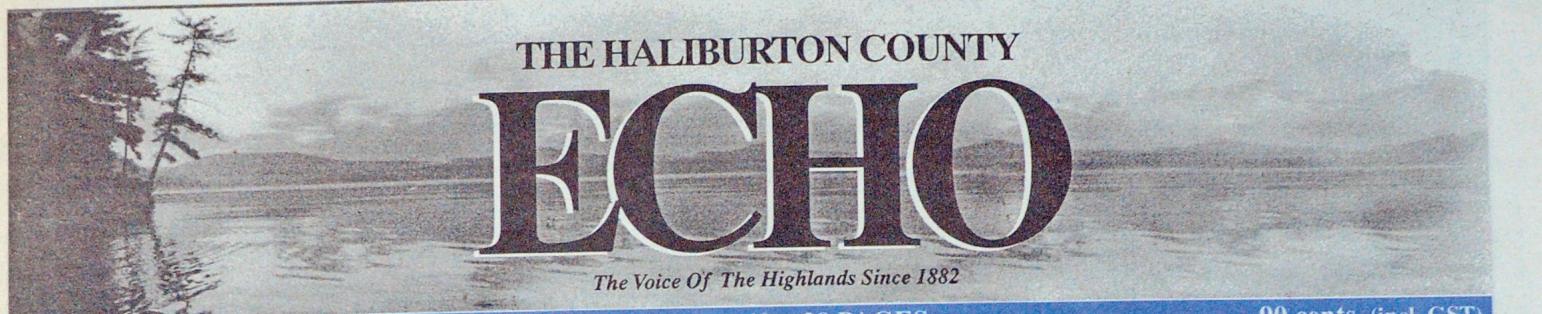
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against BoE policy...pg 5**FEATURE****BUTTING OUT**Health unit program helps smokers
kick the habit... page 17

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Bigger but not better:

Haliburton County to have only one trustee on new school board which also encompasses Victoria and Muskoka

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton County's board of education will be dismantled in the fall, under a provincial plan to eliminate more than half of Ontario's school boards.

The boards of Haliburton, Muskoka and Victoria County will be merged into one of the province's largest school boards, in terms of geography.

The new board, which will have between five and 12 trustees, is to be in place by January 1, 1998, according to the plan unveiled by Education Minister John Snobelen on Monday.

Ratepayers will decide who is to sit on the board, representing roughly 25,000 students, during the next municipal election, scheduled for November.

Because the number of trustees per county is to be decided by population, it's likely only one trustee will represent the interests of Haliburton County, Victoria-Haliburton MPP Chris Hodgson told *The Echo* yesterday.

Trustees across the province will be paid a maximum of \$5,000. Board chairs and vice-chairs will receive slightly more. Those rates are very close to what Haliburton County trustees receive, but trustees in Toronto earn nearly \$50,000.

Hodgson said the province's move to slash the number of school boards to 66 from 166 will allow more money to be spent directly on student instruction, raising the quality of education.

"With one large district board

See ADMINISTRATION page 2

**If you can't beat it...**

Now that there's snow in the Highlands, people are getting out to enjoy it. On a chilly but bright Saturday, the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Ski Club began its Jack Rabbit (beginners) ski program at Glebe Park and two of the participants were Jocelyn Regina, foreground above, and Meaghan Bottum. At right, Tim Baxter of Eagle Lake took part in the Haliburton Forest Ice Fishing Derby and probably had this rainbow trout for dinner. The derby, which attracted about 80 fishermen, was won by Moe Glover of Myrtle. He's had a trailer at Haliburton Forest for the past 20 years.

**School projects come out of funding deep freeze**

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton school board's plans to expand the high school and build a new primary school have been warmed back to life after spending the past 10 months frozen in suspended animation.

The provincial government has lifted a freeze on funding for school construction it imposed on all boards last March.

Education Minister John Snobelen announced on

Thursday that the province will spend \$650-million on school building and renovation projects over the next two years, including about \$1.8-million in Haliburton.

It may be possible for the board to begin expanding the high school as early as next fall and start construction of the new school in the spring, said business administrator Jim Bradley.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School principal Gary Brohman said he is "elated" that building plans are back

on track for the cramped and overcrowded high school.

"This is an absolute M-U-S-T, capitalized and italicized MUST for us," he said after hearing the news Thursday.

"I'm so excited for the kids and the staff... This is going to give us a building that will be able to take us into the 21st Century."

The high school, which currently has about 750 students packed tightly into its classrooms and portables, anticipates its enrollment to rise to more

than 800 by 1998, said Brohman.

Even when the province's high school reform plans eliminate Grade 13 — scheduled to take effect by September, 1998 — Brohman expects the school's student population to be "800-plus for at least the next 10 years."

The board's \$5-million expansion plan for the school will add a triple gymnasium, science wing with five new labs and a 200-seat cafeteria, along with

See HIGH SCHOOL page 6

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